

# HOW·NI·KAN

## PEOPLE OF THE FIRE



Vol. 16, No. 8

Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe

August, 1994

### New tribal administrator brings banking, BIA experience

By GLORIA TROTTER  
**Wanted: Administrator for progressive 20,000-member Native American tribe with multi-million dollar enterprises and programs. Duties: Administer activities of several businesses including successful gaming operation and growing national bank, oversee compliance and administration of federally funded social programs and supervise large staff in multiple locations. Qualifications: Extensive business experience, knowledge of tribal programs essential; banking background and advanced degree preferred.**



**J.D. Colbert**

administrator of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe. One look at his resumé is enough to convince anyone that he was tailor-made for the job he

began Aug. 1.

How about these for credentials?

- President and chief executive officer of First State Bank of Hulbert (Oklahoma), a \$20 million commercial bank whose assets increased 40 percent and earnings went up 300 percent under his leadership.

- Vice president, Bank of Oklahoma, Tulsa, administering a \$20 million problem loan portfolio, of which more than 60 percent was collected.

- Chief, Division of Financial Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C., where he directed and managed a \$200 million loan guaranty portfolio and a \$75 million direct loan portfolio, supervised a staff of almost

100, formulated the annual budget for Congress and wrote lending policies as well as legislative and regulatory amendments.

And that's only lately. Add to that previous stints as chief of the Division of Trust Funds Management for the BIA, assistant vice president of the Bank of Oklahoma, chief financial officer and controller at American Exchange Bank of Norman and bank examiner for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston! The icing on the cake is Colbert's educational preparation — a Bachelor's of Business Administration in management and marketing from the University of Oklahoma in 1978, and a Master of Education in administration,

planning and social policy from Harvard University in 1981. Now that's a resumé.

On top of all that, he's a Potawatomi tribal member, who traces his family back to Annie Bertrand Meritt, his great-great-grandmother who was an 1887 allottee.

But don't expect power ties and fast-track buzzwords when you meet J.D. Colbert. He's a relatively quiet, soft-spoken kind of guy with an easy smile and watchful air. He has been spending his first few weeks on the job getting acquainted with the staff, learning about the programs and enterprises,

Please turn to page 5

### Tribe, City of Tecumseh finalize smoke shop agreement

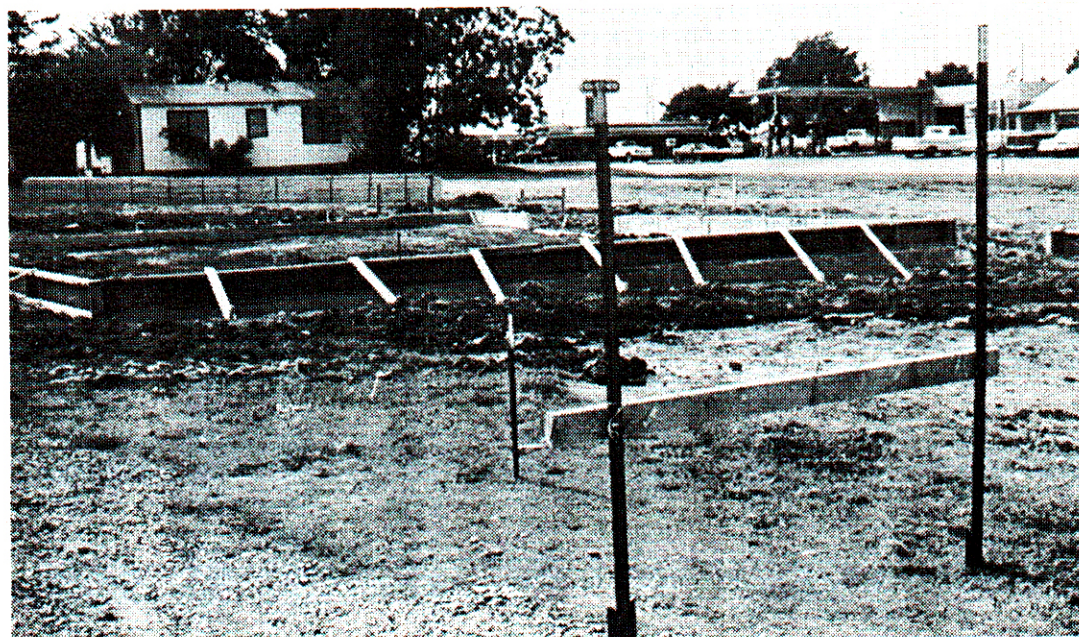
(From *The Tecumseh Countywide News*, July 21, 1994) — An agreement between the City of Tecumseh and the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe was sealed with handshakes and will be recorded by resolutions rather than with a formal agreement, the parties decided July 18.

Attorneys for both governments agreed to the plan at a special meeting of the Tecumseh City Council called at the request of the tribe to discuss a smoke shop the Potawatomis are building on East Walnut just west of Pratt Foods. Although both City Attorney Steve Parker and tribal attorney David McCullough had prepared drafts of a written agreement for services, no action was taken on the agenda item after the attorneys said it

wasn't really needed.

McCullough explained that the tribe plans to put the seven lots it recently purchased into trust, which would take the property off the tax rolls. "We've had a good working relationship with the city, and we don't want to be perceived as pushing," he said. "We prefer to be good corporate citizens ... and hope that the city would join in" if asked to comment on the application for trust status.

The tribe plans to make monthly payments to the city equal to the amount of city sales tax that would be collected if the land were in the city's jurisdiction. McCullough said that the tribe prefers not to use the language "in lieu of taxes" since the tribe "is not a



Work on the tribe's new smoke shop in Tecumseh is well underway

taxable entity" and in fact has a permanent injunction prohibiting the state tax

commission from coming on its land.

McCullough said the

payment is a quid pro quo in the sense that the tribe would

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# TRIBAL TRACTS

## Bowling alley loan approved

The Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe learned recently that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has approved a loan to finance the construction of a bowling alley on tribal land next to Fire Lake Entertainment Center.

Work on the state-of-the-art bowling alley, in the planning stages for many months while word was awaited on the loan application, will begin very soon, according to Tribal Administrator J.D. Colbert. "We just need to sign the loan documents and the contract with the architect," he said, "and then we can execute the agreement with Brunswick." He said he expects the new bowling alley to be "open and rolling" by the first of the year.

## Mystery photo identified

The mystery photo that was published in the June, 1994 *HowNiKan* was identified by Mary Harris of Shawnee. The girls standing in the back are Agnes Christine O'Bright and Ollie O'Bright, seated; Louis O'Bright and Madeline Cummings O'Bright, the blonde; Edith O'Bright and the little boy; Dewey Daniel O'Bright.

## Upton chosen for Duke program

Potawatomi tribal member Amy Upton, an eighth grader at Seminole Middle School, recently attended Duke University's Summer Talent Identification Program (TIP).

Upton, daughter of Mike and Carolyn Upton, was enrolled in a beginning Japanese language course which offered an intensive introduction of speaking, understanding, reading and writing modern Japanese.

During the three-week course, students were exposed to various aspects of modern Japanese culture, society and history.

The intensive fast-paced course covered the equivalent of a one-semester college course.

The TIP participants had class for seven hours each day Monday through Friday and four hours on Saturday. A one-hour study hall was held each evening. Free time was scheduled for Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

In May, Upton attended Duke University's Oklahoma Recognition Service, which was held at Tulsa University.

The SMS honor student has received academic awards in reading, spelling, science, English, math, social studies and creative writing. She was named SMS Student of the Month of May.

## Donations to the HowNiKan

Mrs. Charles Spalding, MO - \$5  
Eric & Susan Campbell, WA - \$50  
Morris S. & Judy A. Swain, CA - \$10  
Dr. H. Berton & Claire Ann McCauley, MA - \$20  
Marcella Spence, Canada - \$15  
Lucille Cartmill, TX - \$10  
Merton O. Whitlow, OK - \$10

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## Midwest Regional

## Potawatomi Dinner Dance Pow Wow

Independence 4-H Building

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Independence, Missouri

Meal Provided - Please Bring A Dessert

Saturday, Oct. 8, 1994 • 2-10:30 P.M.

Gourd Dancing • Intertribal Dancing

Also Honoring The Potawatomi Welch Family

Call Maryann Frank, Midwest Regional Representative

For More Information (816)322-0039 Or 1-800-325-0039

Being Held In Cooperation With The Inter-Tribal Indian Society Of Kansas City



Front Row: Corky Snodgrass, Mildred Cleghorn, Brandon Hicks. Back Row: Tommy Mitchell, Chuffe Walden

## Eight week JTPA Summer Youth Program ends with awards assembly at vo-tech

By ARDEENA ANGELO  
Summer Youth Coordinator

Forty-two students, age 14-17, completed the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe's 1994 JTPA Summer Youth Program at Gordon Cooper Vo-Tech on July 29 with an awards assembly.

The Job Training and Partnership Act's eight-week program included two sections of courses entitled "Independent Living/Skill Building" and "Camp Counselor."

The "Independent Living/Skill Building" classes introduced students to computer skills such as graphics and art; communications courses in story boards and broadcast productions; small engine repair; career explorations and essentials for living and working. These courses were geared toward helping students increase their knowledge of basic skills, explore career options and provide hands-on experience with a variety of field trips.

The "Camp Counselor" project prepared students to work with younger children within encampment pro-

grams. Courses included Child Psychology, Multi-Cultural Communication, Native American Craft Work, Indian Cultural Exploration, Water Aquatics/Lifeguard Training, CPR and First Aid.

The program also had guest speakers from some of the state's area tribes. Mildred Cleghorn, chairman of the Ft. Sill Apache Tribe, is a descendant of Geronimo. Cleghorn, who was born as a prisoner of war, spoke about the tribe's relocation to Oklahoma at the hands of the federal government. She also shared some of her hand-made dolls which depict various traditional tribal women's clothing. Cleghorn is also an experienced secondary education teacher.

Students earned certificates for completing courses in CPR, Community First Aid/Safety and Lifeguard certificates. These awards were presented at the July 29 assembly.

In addition to the students at Gordon Cooper Vo-Tech, 45 participants were assigned to various non-profit community organizations to gain on-

the-job training. A luncheon was held on August 10 to recognize the Summer Youth participants and supervisors who completed the program. Certificates of appreciation were presented to worksite supervisors and participants as well as awards for perfect attendance and excellent work performance. Several of the youth earned permanent positions at their worksites. Many more are students and will be returning to high school or college this fall.

The goal of the Summer Youth Program is to help participants in many ways besides providing income to low-income families; it helps improve self-concepts and provides skills that will enable its participants to obtain unsubsidized employment in the future.

**Don't Forget!**  
HowNiKan  
Deadline  
Is The 10th Of  
The Month



<b>If Merchandise Total Is:</b>		<b>Handling, Freight &amp; Insurance charges are</b>
Up to 19.99 .....		3.65
20.00 - 34.99 .....		4.70
35.00 - 49.99 .....		5.75
50.00 - ? .....		7.00





# IN YOUR OPINION

## Name change good idea

Dear HowNiKan,

I was gratified to read the suggestion by "Rocky" Barrett that we consider changing the name of our band. I have been even more interested to read the comments of David Whittall and Jack Wooldridge in the June issue of the *HowNiKan*. I agree with all three. I was particularly moved by David Whittall's comments about a reconciliation with our cousins in Kansas and in our homelands. There can be no doubt that one of our most important challenges is to bring all of our people together in spirit and cooperation from Shawnee to Moose Deer Point. When we are once again one people, a name change will have much more significance.

As many of you know, I have been something of a practical crusader for our return to our cultural and traditional ways. It was I who made the necessary trips and organized the Black Leg Warriors' Society (Mek-tah Wka-tan Shmak-ne-shak). This is a society of tribal veterans of the armed forces of the United States and Canada. The purpose of the society is to recognize those who have served honorably, and foster the preservation of our culture

and traditions.

Along these lines, let me make a suggestion for everyone's consideration. I suggest we drop the name POTAWATOMI. As we all know, this was a name bestowed on us by the hairy-faced-francais when they misunderstood the Menominee phrase meaning "they are building a fire." I suggest we revive our true and traditional name of NESHNABEK. This would be in concert with what we are seeing among many of the tribes. The Sioux are dropping the Algonquin name which means "the enemy" for their traditional names of Lakota, Nakota and Dakota. The Navajo are currently considering dropping their Spanish name in favor of their traditional name of Dineh. Why should we continue to be called fire makers when our real name is Original People?

Behmaninuh Nikanek,

Danny L. LaClair  
Carlsbad, New Mexico

## Juneau family book available

To the Editor,

I wrote a book updating the history of the family of Narcisse M. Juneau, oldest son of Solomon Juneau and Josette Vieux.

EIGHT GENERATIONS IN

KANSAS, *The Relatives and Descendants of Narcisse and Madeline Juneau* contains more than 100 family photos, a family index, and 187 pages. The book also contains some information on the Vieux and Yott families, and Bonduel Juneau, Narcisse's younger brother, who came to Kansas. Two dozen or so descendants contributed pictures, stories and documents. Some of those who contributed have been notified and many have purchased copies.

For those descendants who have not been notified and want to purchase a copy, please send \$23, which includes postage, to: Mrs. Joan Hrenchir, 3441 S.E. 77th St., Berryton, Kansas 66409.

Sincerely,

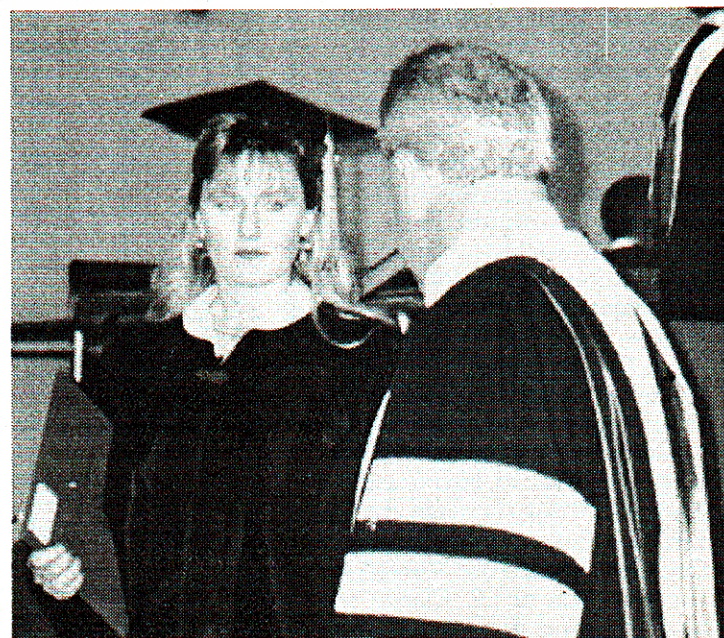
Joan Hrenchir  
Berryton, Kansas

## Bourassa photos please reader

Dear HowNiKan

I was so pleased to see pictures of the Joel Bourassa family sent in by a Dr. McCauley. Always the Bourassa pictures sent in were of other families.

My grandmother, Delilah Bourassa Nourie, was a sister to Joel and I have a snapshot of Arthemese Bourassa taken in 1929 when she visited my grandparents in Beaverville,



Cali LaClair: New Graduate

## Tribal member earns degree with help of tribal scholarship

To The Editor:

Cali LaClair McNeal graduated from Sol Ross University in Alpine, Texas, in June 1993. She was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. This achievement would not have been possible without the generous help of the tribe's scholarship fund. Cali, her husband Tracy, her parents, brother and sisters all wish to thank the Business Committee for its wisdom in establishing such tribal services as the scholarship fund, and all of the members of the tribe and those associated with it for their support and help over the years. It is truly good to be Neshnabeh.

Megwetch e igwe-yen,

Oscar Fermon LaClair  
Carlsbad, New Mexico

IL.

Hope you put more of the pictures the good doctor sent to you in the *HowNiKan*. The

pictures are in the June issue.

Sincerely,

Lorraine M. Lewis  
Macomb, Illinois

# Tribal member's poems, lyrics published in unique format

An unusual book of poems and lyrics by a Potawatomi tribal member was recently released as part of a book and vocal cassette set titled "every eye closed."

J. Stephen Smith, who now lives in upstate New York but has family in Oklahoma, is the author of the lyrics and poetry in the unique booklet printed on recycled paper that was released along with an audio cassette featuring four songs by Smith and

Patty Mozzicato, a physician who also lives in upstate New York. The two met in 1993 and began writing songs together.

The music of "every eye closed," published by Blind Records, 6B Allandale Dr., Rochester, N.Y., is described in a press release as "very unique and varied in style, but overall it is best described as adult alternative."

Here is a sampling of Smith's songs and lyrics:

the thief  
hands creep  
bells toll  
hours move slug-like as you  
stare  
days seep  
months flow  
years collect and catch you  
unaware

loom  
words spinning threads  
woven clothe  
sown like thoughts melting  
wax pouring  
wine flows like blood falling  
rain.  
running rivers roar like God

speaking  
man walking words heard  
like songs  
blending voices singing  
trumpets sound  
like thunder cracking chains  
falling  
rocks rolled like stones  
rolling waves  
crashing cars drive like  
winter melting  
candles burning torches blaze  
like love  
emotions have a way  
twisting things i say  
emotions  
when they start  
oil on a rusty heart

colors to the gray  
i wanted to change the world  
now  
i'll settle for a change of heart  
i wanted to play the lead  
then  
i'll settle for a bit part  
on a canvas  
splatter light  
an artist  
brush strokes of day  
i would through stars to the  
night  
if I could add colors to the  
gray





Keven Colbert, left, wife of the new tribal administrator, visits with Carolyn Sullivan and Sheila Scott at the welcome luncheon

## Colbert family meets staff at welcoming luncheon

Continued from page 1

and generally checking out the landscape.

"My usual M.O. (method of operation) is not to make too many changes right away," he said in an interview only a few days after he took over the big office at tribal headquarters. "I'll leave well enough alone" whenever possible, he added. Colbert met with department heads and enterprise managers Aug. 12, and said he was "very impressed overall with the personnel, their professionalism and credentials. It's as strong as any tribe I've ever seen. I'm really encouraged. And they're willing to work with me; there's a commitment."

An immediate challenge is to help line up a new president for the tribally-owned First Oklahoma Bank. Colbert has helped screen several of the candidates to replace the late Murlin Derebery, who was killed in an accident earlier this summer. "The board (of the bank) wants to be real certain" about the person they hire, Colbert said.

Even before that person is in place, Colbert has become an integral part of the banking operation. Not only will he serve on the bank board, he will hold the title of chief financial officer at First Oklahoma. "I'll be more involved than most board members," he said. "My presence will help bring it full circle ... I'll look for ways the resources of the bank and the tribe can be better matched. I'll have a much more active role in bank affairs than past administrators have had."

His banking and BIA background make him ideally suited for that approach. "I am very familiar with minority banking programs," he said, adding that there are "new market areas" for the bank and the tribe he wants to explore.

As to other tribal enterprises and

programs, Colbert said he "sees us as aggressive across the board on expanding the present programs and adding new resources and new business efforts. Of primary importance to him will be the delivery of new services to all tribal members. "If there's a need out there, we'll go out and meet it. On the business side, we'll constantly look for opportunities. We clearly have the resources to do it, so I see continued growth and expansion."

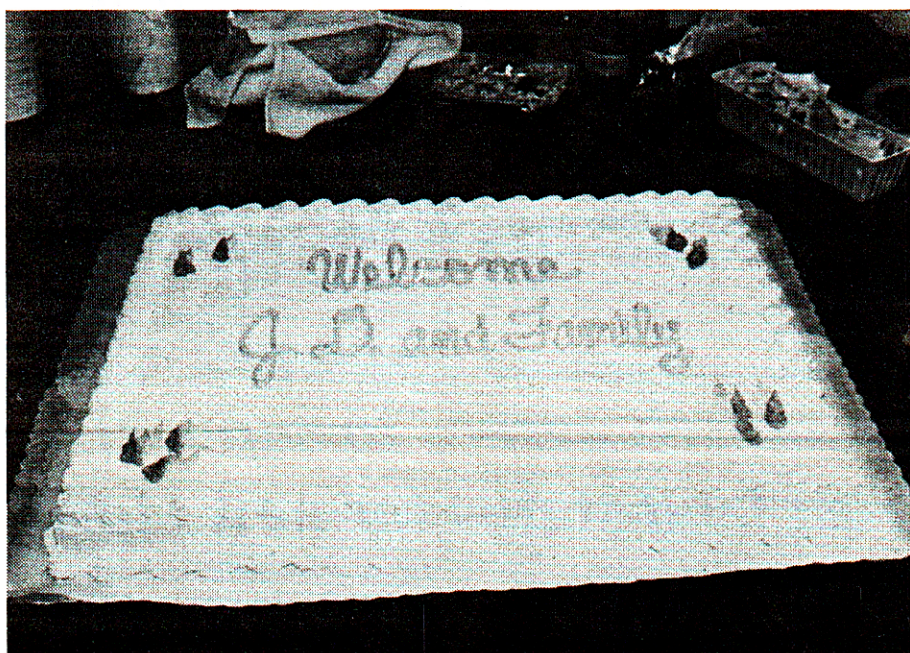
Colbert introduced his family to tribal employees at a luncheon in their honor Aug. 12 in the Long Room. Employees brought covered dishes and shared a special cake while shaking hands with Colbert's wife Keven and their sons Kit, 14, and K.C., 11. Until recently, Keven was director of development for the George M. Sutton Avian Research Center at Bartlesville, a nationally-recognized program that was featured in the November 1992 issue of *National Geographic* for its work with endangered eagles. She will continue to do consultant work for them while settling the family into their new home west of Tecumseh on Bethel Road. They hope to be moved from their Tulsa residence into their new home by mid-September.

The boys will attend Tecumseh Schools, where Kit will pursue his interests in computers and Native American art, and K.C., a trained kickboxer, will look into the wrestling program. The family enjoys hiking, camping and outdoor sports in their leisure time, Colbert said.

The new tribal administrator is also looking forward to meeting his fellow tribal members across the country. "I'm planning to go out a little early before the regional councils to get acquainted," he said. "I'm just pleased to be here, and I'm looking forward to making a contribution."



New Tribal Administrator J.D. Colbert, right, introduces his sons K.C., left, and Kit, center, to Dovie Sheridan (back to camera)



A special cake provided dessert at the luncheon



Business Committeeman Hilton Melot and Tribal Chairman John A. Rocky Barrett joined the staff for the pot-luck luncheon



## Health Services UPDATE

From Joyce Abel, RN

### PHARMACY

The tribal Pharmacy is now able to fill mail order prescriptions out of this service area. The procedure for filling prescriptions is as follows:

Call 405-273-5236, 1-800-880-9880, or write:

Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribal Pharmacy

1901 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801

Attn: Tom Sauer

You will be quoted the price which is cost plus 10 percent, plus \$2.50 postage.

Mail the prescription along with a money order to the above address.

Medication will be mailed same day as received.

Allow 10 days from the date mailed.

This service is available to members and dependents.

### SURVEY

To determine the needs of Tribal members, a survey will be sent to each member ages 18-54. Please complete the survey and return so we can better serve you.

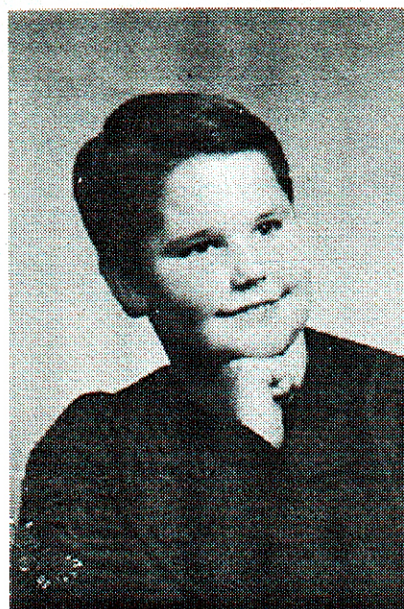
## Tribal member elected to board of Indian center

Philonise Kulani, a Citizen Band Potawatomi tribal member living in Port Orchard, WA, was recently elected to serve on the governing board of the Kitsap County Indian Center in Silverdale, WA. Following her election, she was elected to serve a two-year term as board secretary.

Philonise has worked at the Kitsap County Indian Center in the past in the area of social services, making referrals for those coming in for help, working with the commodities program, helping clients with tribal enrollment and genealogy. For the past two years she has been involved in the Kitsap County Annual Pow Wow, sponsored by KCIC. Throughout the year she can be spotted at pow wows assisting at the KCIC table. She has proven to be a valuable asset to the Indian Center.

## Award Winner

Citizen Band Potawatomi tribal member Gregory A. Cline of Longfellow Middle School in Norman, Oklahoma, has been named as an All-American Scholar and National English Merit Award winner by the United States Achievement Academy. The USAA has established these programs in order to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. Cline was nominated for the awards by Susan Rosenbaum and Rynthia Clements, Longfellow teachers. He is the son of Freddie and Sharon Cline. His grandparents are LaVern Trousdale Cline and J. Gayle Pruett, both of Norman.



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## Tecumseh agrees to support trust land status for new store

Continued from page 1

utilize city utilities and fire protection, but "it's more in the line of a charitable contribution ... we can probably put the land in trust without the city's agreement, but that's not what we choose to do."

Parker agreed that the payment is essentially a contribution and that a written agreement was not needed. "In fact, the worst case is that the city could be sued" if there were such an agreement, he said. He said he had checked with Durant, which receives a payment from the Choctaws, and Ada, which has "almost the same deal with the Chickasaws as this." He suggested that the council authorize him to prepare a resolution "saying we will cooperate" and that the tribe do the same.

He noted that the semi-annual audit that is part of the tribe's payment plan is "a gesture of good faith" and added that "I frankly don't know any way we could force them to do it." Tribal Vice Chairman Linda Capps said she would like to think of the payments as "being in exchange for fire services," and tribal Secretary-Treasurer Bob Davis emphasized that the tribe will conform to all building codes and purchase supplies in Tecumseh whenever possible.

Davis and Bob Dunning, tribal operations director, showed plans for the new building to the council. Mayor Phil Hartoon asked several

questions about traffic flow and suggested that the tribe consider redesigning the building to keep waiting cars off the street. Councilman Will Parker asked about police protection and was told that would be handled by the tribal police force. Councilman Tony Hawkins asked if the new store would sell beer or gas, and was told it would not.

"No beer," replied Davis. "It's a tobacco shop for now. If we expand, we will come back to you. But it's a tribal smoke shop."

After the council voted to defer action and authorize the city attorney to prepare a resolution for the August meeting, Davis asked if that means "we have to wait ... does that have anything to do with our building permits?" He had said earlier they hoped to have the store open in 45 days.

"Basically we appreciate your asking us about this," Hartoon replied. "It doesn't always happen that way, and we've seen it the other way." He added that the city "has to have that extra money" to help take care of the added wear and tear to the city streets, but "you have every right to go ahead." The tribe is already moving dirt and preparing to have the soil samples done that are required by the city. The tribe also noted that it would comply with the sign ordinance and only a marquee-type sign would be used.

# ANGUS

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Registered Angus Females • 80 Lots

Bred Cow/Calf Pairs • Show Heifers

Junior Livestock Show Winners Bonuses Paid \$50-500

# Sunday, Sept. 11

# 1 P.M.

Two Miles East And Four Miles South  
Of Tecumseh On Hwy. 9. Follow Signs.

Sale Day Contact Rocky Barrett, 598-3757

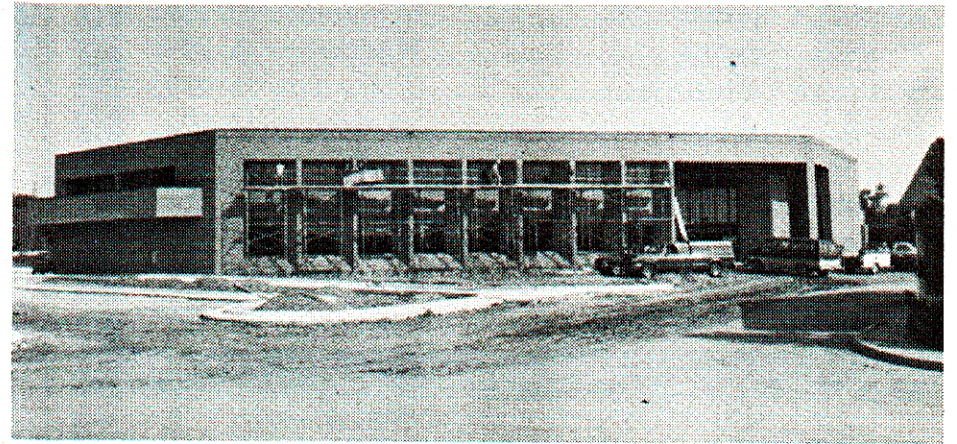
PAID ADVERTISEMENT



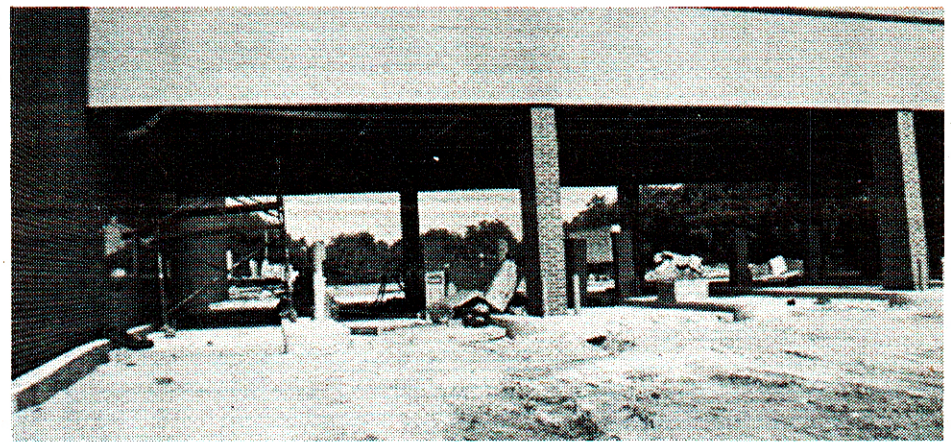
# BUILDING A BANK!



In A Short Time, The View Out This Window Will Show Customers, Not Construction Equipment



The New First Oklahoma Bank Building Is Beginning To Assume The Striking Form That Will Make It A Landmark In Shawnee

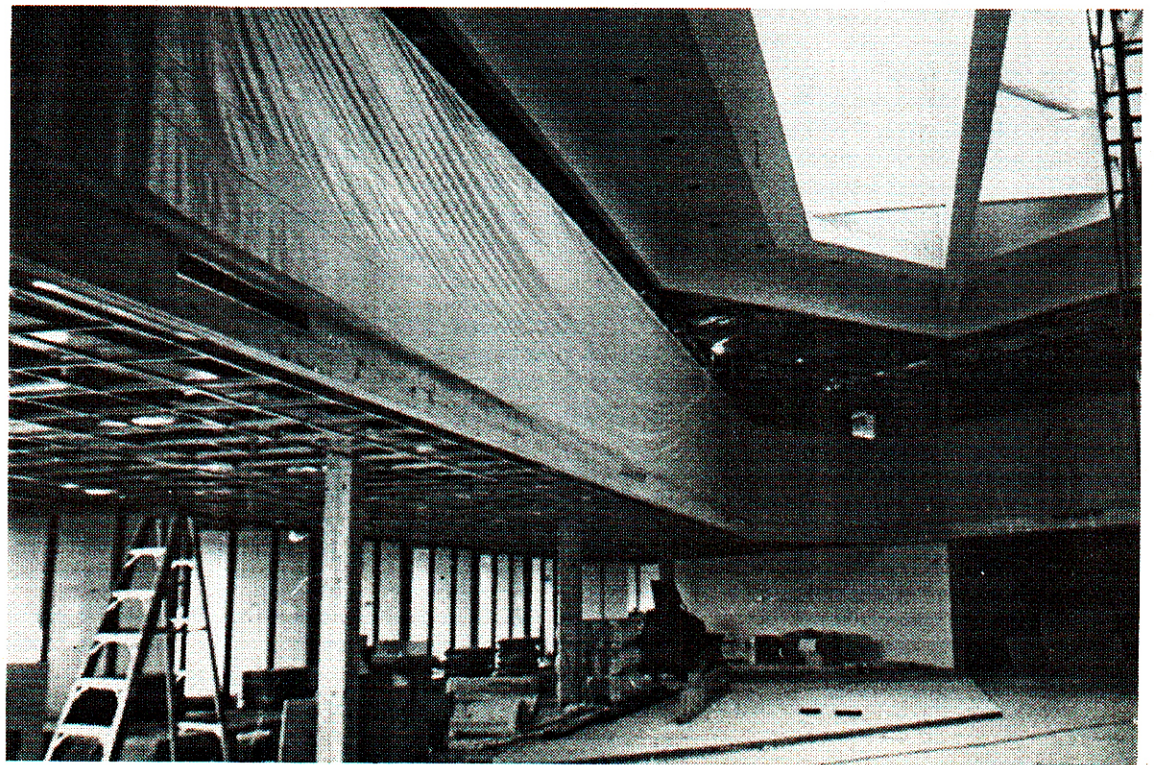


When Completed, Several Drive-By Lanes Will Be Available For The Convenience Of First Oklahoma Bank Customers

*Walk Inside The Lobby of The New First Oklahoma Bank In Shawnee and You're Struck by the Skylight and What Soon Will Be. First Oklahoma Bank Is Owned by The Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe.*

Photos by  
Gloria Trotter

**BUILDING A BANK!**





# REGIONAL REPORTS

## REGIONAL COUNCIL SCHEDULE

These dates for Regional Council meetings during the 1994-1995 series have been confirmed:

Denver, Colorado .....	September 25, 1994
Phoenix, Arizona .....	November 19, 1994
Southern California .....	January 14, 1995
Seattle, Washington .....	February 11, 1995
Eugene, Oregon .....	February 25, 1995
Northern, California .....	March 18, 1995
Texas (Houston) .....	April 15, 1995
Texas (Dallas) .....	April 29, 1995
Kansas City .....	May 20, 1995

## DENVER

I am writing this column with mixed emotions. By the time you read this, I will no longer be your Regional Representative. I have sold my home and am moving back in Washington State to be with my family and friends, but I am really going to miss the wonderful Potawatomi family that I have been associated with the past three years.

Everyone has been so kind to me. I am especially going to miss the wonderful people at the Tribal Complex who have been so helpful and informative. I will miss the other Regional Representatives that I have felt so close to and feel like I will be leaving my extended family of brothers and sisters. I certainly will miss the wonderful people on the Business Committee who have made me feel so welcome and such a part of our Potawatomi family.

However, this is a move that I feel is best for me at this time of my life and I will continue to be interested and concerned in the workings of the Tribe. Susan, when I get settled I will give you a call and you must know that I will be available to help when I can.

I leave this position with a good feeling because I am leaving it in very capable hands. Effective August 1, your new Rep was Lisa Baldwin. I met Lisa when I first took this position, and she has been a big help to me. She helped me organize our first outdoor Regional meeting up at Chief Hosa Lodge. She has had personal experience with the difficulty of getting medical care in Colorado, and most of all she is a devoted member of the Tribe and looking forward to working with all of you.

I have found her to most helpful to me and always there for me when I need her without my even having to ask. So be sure and give her a call and introduce yourself and get acquainted. I know that she will be glad to hear from you. The phone number for those of you out of the Denver area will be the same: 1-800-531-1140, however the local number did have to be changed. It is now 363-9771; make a note of this please.

Lisa is busy getting the invitations out for our Regional meeting and I truly hope that you will do your best to attend and give her all of your support. Unfortunately I will miss it this year and am truly sorry, as I feel that it is a highlight of our year here in Denver, but I know that the rest of you will have as good a time as always, and I will be thinking of you.

So my dear friends, to all of you who have meant so much to me over the past three years, I refuse to say goodbye, just "until we meet again."

*Norma Whitley*

Here in Denver we have received the news that Norma is moving to Washington State. In her absence, I have been chosen to serve the Tribe as this region's representative. I am very excited at the prospect. For those of you at the Regional Meeting at Chief Hosa Lodge, you may have met me there while helping Norma.

Since the telephone lines had to be switched over, there are a few phone numbers you might like to write down. The new local number is 363-9771 the 1-800 line is the same, 1-800-531-1140. The address is Lisa Baldwin, 316 Dayton, Aurora, CO 80010. I do look forward to hearing from each of you.

The weather here has been hot and dry. I'm sure many of you have heard of the fires that are burning out of control here. Please remember the fourteen fire fighters that have lost their lives recently fighting the fires. It was a terrible loss.

On this note I bid you adieu and look forward to hearing from you in the future.

*Lisa Baldwin*

## SEATTLE

Approximately 50 people came together on July 9 for our second annual picnic at Manchester State Park just outside Port Orchard. My thanks to Philonise Kulani for the outstanding job she did in organizing and putting it on.

Although food is always a big part of a picnic — Jim Mathes and his friends brought some wonderful fry bread and there were some terrific desserts — the scavenger hunt and obstacle course proved to be very successful, though some were a bit squeamish about collecting the slug and the sand flea. But all went well and hopefully the slugs and fleas are recovering!

Bill Mathes brought his whittling knife and had quite a group of kids gathered around him as he made twig whistles. They had a lot of fun running around playing with them.

Later in the evening Philonise gathered those who were left and we all had a class on making dreamcatchers. Even though I'm all thumbs, under her directions even I made one!

We ended our day around Christine and Daniel Burnett's campfire making s'mores and drinking coffee. It was a super day, the weather was perfect, and hopefully everyone left feeling good about our time together. Everyone had a chance to view the videos of the 1994 Shawnee pow wow and to sit and visit and make new friends.

As I write this (July 28) I'm in the middle of packing for the Boise picnic on August 6. Nicole and Shayshoshewa have had 60 RSVPs so far for this, our first gathering in Idaho! I'll share the results next month.

I'd like to welcome Norma Whitley to the state of Washington! I've gotten to know Norma through her excellent work as Denver Regional Representative and look forward to seeing her here at our gatherings. She's a special lady and I'm glad of the opportunity to see more of her.

Mark the weekend of September 30 - October 2 on your calendar and try to attend the 2nd annual Il Wa Sil Celebration Pow Wow at the Seattle Center Arena. We went last year and it was very well attended. There are 16 invited drums and over \$45,000 in prize money offered. Call 206-343-3111 for further information.

I will be in Kalamazoo, Michigan, attending the Minnetrista Fall Council from Sept. 21-26th. If you try to call me during those dates, please leave a message and I'll get back to you when I return. Minnetrista Council is now the "largest cultural consortium of Indian Nations in America" according to a recent letter from Nick Clark in *News From Indian Country*. The Citizen Band can be proud to be a part of this organization which represents the Woodlands/Great Lakes tribes. If you'd like to be on their mailing list and receive their newsletter call me or Minnetrista (317-282-4848). There is a small membership fee.

There was something else of interest in the latest NFIC. On June 25 at Milwaukee County Stadium, Native American veterans from the state of Wisconsin, including representatives of the Potawatomi people, presented the colors during the National Anthem for the first annual Intertribal Day. Eleven tribes made up the color guard.

Please send good thoughts to those whose lives have been devastated by the wildfires raging through the western part of the country. Several reservations have been threatened.

And also send good thoughts to Hazel Neff, our regional elder, and to Mr. Neff, her husband. They will be visiting Kansas and Missouri, among other stops to celebrate Mr. Neff's mother's 101st birthday.

Until next month, I wish you peace and harmony, with your fellow man and with all of Creation.

To all my relations.....

*Susan Campbell*



Bill Mathes Whittles Twig Whistles At The Second Annual Potawatomi Picnic in Port Orchard, Washington



# REGIONAL REPORTS

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## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Bourzho from Pasadena!

Here in the middle of a Los Angeles summer, it's hard to remember what a cool rain feels like. Add to that the smog, crowded freeways, and the daily body counts on the news, and you can get the overwhelming feeling that it's all too much. For me, that's when sitting in the shade next to a singing creek makes all the difference.

Most of us have grueling schedules, and the thought of taking time for ourselves alone seems ludicrous. Still, I force myself to find that time. I trek up into the hills and just sit still for awhile, letting Mother Earth heal the road wear on my spirit.

Of course, it's quicker and easier to find a pharmacy or liquor than it is to find spare time these days, but those man-made poultices, as we all know, are temporary and flawed. The soothing balm Mother Earth applies, however, with her breezes and rustling leaves, her flowing waters playing amongst unyielding stone, and the cry of a reeling hawk overhead — these are quite different medicines, true medicines. The healing effects of these great gifts are much more lasting and sublime.

And so, nikoni, as much trouble as it may seem to carve out a morning to hike to a remote spot free from the markings of modern society, I respectfully suggest that you do so, especially when the stress of modern living affects you. Close to our Mother — that's where and when the magic is done, you see. And there are none of us who don't need a little magic in our lives. A-ho.

Announcements:

AMERICAN INDIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is up and operating. If you own your own business, give them a call. 4040 30th St., Ste 202, San Diego 92104 (800) 260-8243, (local callers call information for number).

APPRENTICESHIP PREPARATION ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION TRAINING FOR WOMEN starts October 3. Classes run from 1-4 pm Monday through Thursday for 14 weeks. Info: Career Equity Services. LA Unified School District (213) 625-4555.

LEGAL AID SERVICES are now available from 12 pm to 5 pm, Tuesday and Thursday at the Southern California Indian Center, 2500 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 750, Los Angeles, CA 90057. Info: (213) 387-5772.

For information regarding employment with the IMMIGRATION SERVICE, call Fannie Billy at (213) 894-4972.

UC RIVERSIDE now has a Native American radio program every Thursday from 5 - 6 pm on station KUCR, FM 88.3. Info: Earl Sisto (909) 787-4143.

The ELDERCARE LOCATOR, a new information and referral service administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging designed to help identify community resources for seniors anywhere in the United States, is available to provide information on services such as home-delivered meals, legal assistance, transportation, housing options, adult day care, home health services, and elder abuse prevention. Call (800) 677-1116 between the hours of 6:00 am and 5:00 pm.

The AMERICAN INDIAN CLINIC is looking for volunteers. If you want to help and don't know where to start, try here. The need a computer operator, filing clerk, carpenter, janitor, and health care professionals. Call (310) 920-7227 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm and ask for Nina Capeluto or Linda Hawk.

Pow Wow Schedule:

NATIVE AMERICAN HARVEST YOUTH FAIR September 11, 10 am - 6 pm. 10265 Central Ave. Montclair. Info: Kay Lawson (909) 467-1478.

CALIFORNIA INDIAN COUNCIL'S 6th ANNUAL POW WOW September 16-18 at the Borchard Community Center, 190 N. Reino (corner of Borchard and Reino) 98050 496-6628.

3rd ANNUAL KOKOPELLI FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND ART Sept. 30 - October 2nd at Alhambra Park, 500 N. Palm

Ave. in Alhambra (310) 861-0241.

AMERICAN INDIAN CLINIC, INC'S POW WOW, a Celebration of Sobriety and Spirituality. October 1 - 2, 11am - 12 midnight in Hawaiian Gardens on the ballfield between Killingsworth and Bloomfield park. No info number available.

HUTASH POW WOW October 7-9 at Live Oak Campground, Santa Barbara (formerly San Marcos Campground) (619) 375-6900.

FOUR WINDS INTERTRIBAL COUNCIL OF RIDGEGREST 1st ANNUAL POW WOW October 22 - 23. Info: Edna Laytart (619) 375-6900.

And a Few Reminders:

The San Diego Museum of Man still has available for your viewing the "FACT, FUN, FANTASY: NAVAJO PICTORIAL WEAVINGS FROM THE STEVE AND CLEVES WEBER COLLECTION." Bring your tribal ID card for free admission.

The SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INDIAN CENTER, VAN NUYS OFFICE, has moved because of earthquake damage. The new address is 6309 Van Nuys Blvd. Suite 104, Van Nuys, CA 91401.

If you would like to be a foster parent to an American Indian child, please call Indian Child and Family Services Southern California Indian Center, (213) 387-5772.

Cavaleri & Associates, a recognized and licensed talent agency, is still seeking Native American Performers for theatrical and commercial representation. Send photo and resume (if available) to Cavaleri & Associates, Attn: Dan Harjo, 6605 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 220, Hollywood, CA 90028.

NATIVE AMERICAN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP SERVICES are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday in our region. You're asked to bring a dish to share at the potluck that follows the service, and childcare is provided. For exact locations, call Reverend Buddy Monahan (Choctaw/Maricopa) at (310) 670-5076 (office) or (310) 643-5793.

AMERICAN INDIAN HOUSING SERVICES' new telephone number is: (213) 353-6026.

Tutoring services are available in both Orange and Los Angeles Counties - FREE OF CHARGE! Contact tutor coordinator Renee Dusseau, (213) 728-8844.

The Southern California Indian Center has an AMERICAN INDIAN SENIOR CENTER in Garden Grove. Available to those 55 and older, it's a warm and friendly gathering place to make friends, share culture, enjoy a hot meal, and receive supportive services. Call (714) 530-0221 Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm for info.

Martial arts instruction is available to Native American people 18 years or older at no charge! The classes are held at Cal State LA and run from 6-8pm every Thursday night.

The Southern California Indian Center, Inc. is sponsoring a POW WOW DANCE WORKSHOP available to American Indian students (up through 12th grade). Included are traditional and fancy dance styles representing both Northern and Southern tribes. Also included is instruction on regalia design and construction. The classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Southwest at the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles (site of our 1994 Regional Council meeting). Call (213) 728-8844 for more information.

Are any of you bowling in the AMERICAN INDIAN BOWLING ASSOCIATION? If not, and you want to, call Betty Tsonetokkey at (818) 968-7691 for info.

Call your Southern California Regional Office for specifics on any of the above.

And remember, when attending any Native American event, wear your Potawatomi ball cap, tee-shirt, jacket, or button, all available through our tribal store. And get out there into that circle and DANCE! Let's let everyone know how proud we are to be Potawatomi!

Megwetch,

Jeremy Bertrand Finch



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## KANSAS CITY

**Bourzho,**

So far, this has been a wonderful summer. As a matter of fact, it has been a wonderful year. I have had the opportunity to meet with some of you and discuss tribal matters and concerns, and I am happy to welcome new members who decided to join the Inter-tribal Indian Society and get acquainted with others in the Indian community.

I attended a symposium in July at the "Sacred Encounters" exhibit at Rockhurst College. I got the opportunity to meet Gary Mitchell. He is a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi. He gave about an hour long speech on the Potawatomi Indians. He is a historian and the author of the booklet, "A Short History of the Prairie Band Potawatomi." The booklet is available through the gift shop in Shawnee. It is a thirty page condensed version on Potawatomi history. Gary prefaces the book by saying, "This short history is for informational purposes only and represents one version and one interpretation of Potawatomi history." I do recommend the book. I learned a few things I didn't know about before. By the end of the year, Gary will have a revised edition of the book available.

I got the opportunity to be involved in a couple of dance demonstrations, one for the Raytown, Missouri Historical Society and the other at the Raymore, Missouri homecoming. The Inter-tribal Indian Society was in the parade and we won a blue ribbon for second place. We will also be in the Kansas City American Royal parade again this year on October 22nd. Watch for us on T.V. Last year we won a blue ribbon "Award for Excellence."

I auditioned for a part in the Olathe, Kansas community theatre production of "You Can't Take It With You." I am happy to say I was cast in a lead role. I am playing the character of Penny Sycamore. It is a very funny and extremely off the wall comedy. Any of you who enjoy live theatre productions, I welcome you to come on out to see the play. Performance dates are September 2,3,9,10, 16, 17, 23, and 24. The location, the Buddy Rogers Playhouse, 500 E. Loula, Olathe, Kansas 66061. (913) 782-2990, reservations are required. Ticket prices are \$7.

Upcoming powwow dates: September 2,3 & 4 Ottawa Tribal PowWow, Oklahoma. September 9, 10, 11 Moberly PowWow, Moberly, Missouri.

Megwetch,

*Maryann Frank*

## DALLAS

The lazy, hazy days of summer are fading fast, making way for Fall and all the things we associate with the stories about Indians, the corn, gourds, pumpkins. It seems I always measure the year by the seasons and the school year. School has already begun for some of the children and will begin soon for the others. Our youngest grandchild begins kindergarten this year and it's hard to accept even grandchildren growing up so fast. My job at a university reinforces the perception of time in terms of a school year.

One of my American Indian friends at the university was recently elected to the board of the Inter-Tribal Center which provides services to the Indian community in and around Dallas. He has shared some of the concerns about their operation. They have been beset with problems and are working hard to improve the operation. So many Indian groups in the area are working hard to provide services to the community in a compassionate manner and yet operate in a businesslike manner.

Our vacation this year took us to Corpus Christi and Port Aransas, and posted at the sandwich shop near the beach was a notice of a pow wow with people from this area involved. My awareness of pow wows has increased with the trips I've made to Shawnee. Now everywhere I go I see information about another gathering to retain the culture of the Indian.

I have not heard from many of you this past month and was a little slow getting back to those who did call because of my vacation and a severe viral illness that my grandson shared with me. Don't tell me that kids nowadays are selfish! Guess the heat is slowing you down; I know it has me. Let me hear from you if there's anything I can do for you such as enrollment forms for that new child or grandchild.

*Marjorie Hobdy*

## OREGON

**Bourzho from Oregon,**

We have really had a long hot spell here in Oregon and Washington, with so many forest and wild fires breaking out. I feel like doing one of those rain dances, but feel I need some help. Anyone for a try? We are all hoping for a good Oregon rain.

There has been lots of inquiries about our Oregon Council Meeting. We haven't gotten a date yet but I assure you that just as soon as I know, you will all be notified. Meanwhile, some of the biggest pow wows in Oregon will be coming up at Siletz and Grand Ronde. Why not drive to the coast where it is cool and take in these spectacular events?

It is also time to be thinking about school again. One option you may want to consider is Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon. The school supervisor, Gerald J. Gray, announces that classes for the 1994-1995 school year will begin August 24, 1994. Students, who are enrolled, will travel August 22-23, or soon as possible thereafter by bus, train, or air as arranged by Chemawa Indian School (CIS).

CIS is an off-reservation boarding high school accredited by Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the State of Oregon, and the beautiful campus includes 400 acres near Salem, and is 50 miles south of Portland. Course offerings for this year (four class block schedule) include general, vocational, computer, art, personal relationships, special education, Chapter 1, gifted and talented, career development, and a personalized education program where students are provided additional academic and remedial help evenings and weekends. According to Gray, the school is noted for and emphasizes alcohol and drug education/treatment, counseling and guidance, nutritional food service, modern dormitories with an enhanced home living environment. Varied cultural and Native American activities, student government, diverse athletic programs, and a broad range of interesting recreation opportunities. The school graduated 49 seniors last year with many waiting to attend college this fall. The honor roll for spring term had 33 students earning a 3.09 GPA.

Recreational and leisure activities include skiing, river rafting, swimming, mountain hiking, camping, attendance at many college games, excursions to the Pacific coast, and participation in many clubs, social events, student banquets, school barbecues and picnics. City bus service is available to students and staff. Students, parents, and guardians are urged to submit enrollment applications to: Chemawa Indian School, 3700 Chemawa Rd. NE, Salem, Oregon 97305-1199 or call: Kathy Murray, Registrar, 503-399-5721, EXT. 247.

The long-awaited evening clinic hours began April 25 at the Chemawa Medical Clinic. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. Medical Clinic services are available by appointment. There will be only one doctor/nurse practitioner available per night, so there will not be a choice of providers. Laboratory and pharmacy services will be available, but X-ray may not always be available. Dental will not be open, and field health services available are not finalized as yet. But isn't it nice to be able to have some evening open for those of you who work during the day? Appointments for evening clinic will need to be made during 8 a.m.-5 p.m. regular clinic hours, as the incoming phone lines will be on the answering machine after 5 p.m. Walk-ins will be very limited, with a single provider-nurse team working, and remember this is not an emergency room, so please continue to use urgent care centers for emergent/urgent care. If the demand for evening services is great enough, then an enlarged evening clinic will be considered.

I want to thank Shayshoshewa Westin and Nicole Bonde for hosting the Potawatomi Picnic in Boise on August 6, and also Susan Campbell from Seattle who initiated the picnic. These ladies have worked very hard and I'm sorry that I was not able to attend. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and there will be more in the future.

Dates to Remember: Aug. 12-14 Siletz Pow-Wow...Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow...Siletz Oregon. For information, call Koran Bell at 503-444-2532. Aug. 19-21 Grand Ronde Pow-Wow...at the Tribal Community Center, Grand Ronde, OR. Call 503-879-5211 Aug. 19-21 Klamath Treaty Days Celebration...Chiloquin, Oregon, 503-783-2005 (Marc McNair or 783-2219 (Roberta Tapper). Aug. 26-29 Youth and Elders Spiritual Gathering-Siletz, Oregon. The Oregon Native Youth Council is grateful to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz for their generosity in offering their Tribal Land for two years now as a gathering place for Native Youth and Elder of Oregon. Information: Call Selene Lynch at 1-800-922-1399. Labor Day Weekend...Puyallup Tribe's Annual PowWow and Salmon Bake-2002 e. 28th, Exit 135 off I-5, Tacoma, Washington.

Many times young people grow up in situations where they are not exposed to our traditional ways of honoring elders. Common myths that your children may believe about elders are that they become senile, or decline physically, or become dependent of them. Not true ... our elders today are living much longer and more active than in years past. We must instill in our youths that elders are people who have the same needs as those of younger ages. Elders need their private time. Elders should be listened to and have a say in decisions that affect them. They need to have their spiritual need attended, as sometimes they have the feeling that death is near. Elders can be a treasure of information. Youth who spend time with elders can learn a great many things. It is our responsibility as adults to link the youth with our elders. And let us all learn to treat them with the respect and honor they deserve.

Until next month, let me leave you with a quote that is much like our past presidents ... Ask not what your Tribe can do for you, but what YOU can do for your Tribe.

Megwich,

*Rocky Baptiste*



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## PHOENIX

**Bourzho Nikon,**

Someone, a long time ago, wrote in an autograph book of mine, quote, "Can't think, brain numb, inspiration just won't come, da ti dum, da ti dum, that's all Amen," and that's about where I am at the beginning of my attempt to write my letter to all of you.

Not much cracking around here except lighting. We sit in our family room or upstairs and watch the lighting over the mountains and sometimes it strikes right here in our own back yard, but wheresoever you watch it from, Mother Nature does put on a fearsome display of fire works this time of year. We haven't been getting much rain, but a lot of humidity, and why do folks say "AIN'T IT HOT" when everybody knows it?

Linda Harris and I have been putting together our picnic, and you will all be getting invitations soon. I am looking forward to meeting all of you. I am beginning to receive phone calls and written responses to my recent mailing. Thank you all. Keep up the communication; I stand ready to help all I can. I may not be able to answer all your questions but I can find someone who can.

INDIAN DAYS at Polacca School will be held in September. Polacca School is located below Firat Mesa, on the Hopi reservation in Northeastern Arizona, near Walpi, and Hano. The school has been there for a hundred years, and like all Indian schools built by the government, was not allowed to teach any Indian ways or language. However, that is all changed now.

The children are being taught language and all customs, dances, the love of all things above and on earth. The dances are all done by the children and the parents and teachers make the colorful dress. They reflect how they feel about the world's goodness, kindness, and gratitude and love for all living creatures.

The dances are open to the public, BUT YOU MUST ALWAYS ASK PERMISSION FROM THE PEOPLE BEFORE ENTERING THE RESERVATION. Wouldn't it be a sight to behold all those little ones being Butterflies, Birds, Bees, and Corn dancing around together? September is the month of the Feasting Moon, thus the celebration in September. But leave your cameras at home. Pictures are not permitted.

September 7-11, Navajo Fair is being held at Window Rock, AZ. I understand it is usually intertribal.

Isn't it strange — when I started I didn't have a clue what to put down, but get me started and I rattle on like a magpie. But enough is enough. Keep in touch, keep the phone ringing, and I will try to take care of your request as soon as possible.

Megwetch

*Philonise Williams*

## MERCED

**Bourzho from Merced,**

This summer is passing us by. This past month has seemed to be unlike any I've seen... Is time speeding up?

I've still had the "Shawnee Blues," wishing we were still back there in the spirit of the Pow Wow.

Most of the office activity has been application requests for Health Aids Services, enrollment forms with some needing help for education grants as well as SBA assistance. Those that have called regarding marriage ceremonies as well as other types of ceremonies, I'm gathering information at this time and should have a packet of information in the near future.

The upcoming Sweat Ceremony in Mariposa has had a good response and if we can't accommodate everyone, we will have another one some time in November. If anyone is interested in participating in a Sweat, give me a call and we will set it up. As to the Tribal meeting next year, we have asked for a later date and hope to have some information soon.

Anyone who has information to share with Tribal members, please call me. Also, anyone that would like to help prepare for the meeting, please give me a call. It has gotten big enough that we need at least 10 people to help with the sodas, coffee, entertainment, horseshoe tournament, games for the children, storytelling, signs, etc. Call now so that we may start planning.

There are several pow wows in this area for September with one the last weekend in September in Porterville. Anyone who has any activities that they would like put into this letter, please contact me prior to the 10th of the month.

Thanks again to all in Shawnee who help us with our many questions. Our Tribal Museum and Store is a wealth of information for anyone that is beading or interested in dresses or shirts. I hope all is well with everyone and remember to keep our leadership in your prayers. Anyone with a special spiritual need, don't forget our chaplain, Norman Kiker. Blessings to all and to our People everywhere.

Megwetch,

*Gary Bibb*

## HOUSTON

**Bourzho from Houston,**

We have been in touch with several of our Elders this month. The summer has not been kind to all of them.

Alma Craig of Leander, Texas, fell this summer, breaking an arm and ribs. The arm has been slow to heal, and she is still in a cast. Olline Hodges spent the last week of July and several days in August in the hospital in her home town of Weslaco, Texas. She is resting at home now, but not entirely well. Emily Ogee has suffered a heart attack and is now recovering in the retirement home in Harrah, Oklahoma.

Evelyn Whipple of San Angelo, Texas had surgery to her left eye, to correct damage from previous cataract surgery, and she is doing exceedingly well after surgery.

If you know these Potawatomi Elders, write to them or send a card. I am sure they will welcome encouragement from you. We count ourselves fortunate to have so many of our Potawatomi Elders with us still. If you know of others who need our prayers or encouragement, please call us and let us know; we do not wish to forget anyone.

The weather continues to be hot and dry! In South Texas we would welcome the sound of thunder. Grandfather knows; I am sure he will provide. In any event, we've had very few mosquitoes.

The "critters" living here fare well. We keep fresh water out for them, and they enjoy the corn and sweet feed as supplement to their natural diets. Mama Raccoon is rearing three healthy babies in these woods, and the small herd of deer roaming through here numbers among them five bucks with well developed racks now. It is interesting to see that the young in that herd feed first, then the does, then the males.

Intertribal has resumed its monthly pow wows, held on the second Saturday of each month. Call me, or the Intertribal Office at (713) 464-1164 for times and locations. Come out and be with us. You are always welcome.

Please call and let us know who is having birthdays, getting married, going away to school, or whatever special thing is happening in your life. Share these good times with us, so we can rejoice with you, and if you need encouragement, we want to do that too. Only if we hear from you can we do our work here well!

Plans are underway for the next South Texas Council Meeting. We need volunteers! Call us.

I watched with great interest the debate and subsequent vote in the House of Representatives on the bill to give federal recognition to the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians in Michigan. If you've never seen this process, I recommend it for furthering your education regarding the functioning of our federal governing bodies. The final vote was a winning one, with 31 Democrats and 145 Republicans voting nay. We extend our congratulations to our brothers, the Pokagons, on this long awaited recognition. They are signatory descendants of the Treaties of Chicago, and subsequent ones.

Keep well,

*Lu Ellis*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

**By J.D. COLBERT  
Tribal Administrator**

On August 1, 1994, I began work as the Tribal Administrator for the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe. I am honored to have been selected to this position of enormous responsibility.

I have found the staff and personnel to be highly competent, professional and dedicated to their duties. They all share a deep commitment to advancing the interests of the tribe and to the betterment of its people. Over the years I have worked with scores of Indian tribes and organizations, I can truly say that the employees of the CBPT are among the finest with whom I have been associated. In that respect I feel very fortunate, both as Tribal Administrator and as an enrolled tribal member.

In recent years, the tribe has achieved remarkable accomplishments. The federal programs that the tribe administers have been expanded resulting in continued improvement in the delivery of various services to the Potawatomi people. In addition, the tribe's business operations have grown and prospered. Indeed, in every area there exists an upbeat optimism as programs and services continue to be expanded. We are in the forefront of tribes nationally with regard to the social services that we deliver, the level of sophistication of our business interests and in the protection and exercise of our sovereign status.

The key to these accomplishments is the able leadership and commitment of the members of the Business Committee of CBPT. As a group they share a fundamental devotion to the continued improvement of the general welfare of the tribe and its people. Individually, they unselfishly give a great deal of their time attending to the business affairs of the tribe.

In the months and years to come I look forward to using this column to inform the membership of various tribal activities, to comment on issues affecting the tribe and to generally communicate with the tribal membership.

I am glad to be here.



# HOW-NI-KAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

The HowNiKan is published by the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe with offices at 1901 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801.

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All correspondence should be directed to HowNiKan, 1901 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Ok. 74801. Address changes should be sent to Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1901 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Ok. 74801.

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## Change in emphasis may be milestone in tribal history

Bourzho Nicon  
(Hello, my friends),

Our Tribe has passed many "milestones" in its history. Which are the most important is a matter of perspective depending on when you lived. Students of Tribal history would say that certainly the division of the original Tribe into three, the Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Ojibway, stands out. The first association with the French fur traders in Michigan and the advent of Christianity in our culture, the wars with the various European alliances that culminated in our removal to Kansas and the ensuing war victory over the Pawnee and their allies were great "milestones."

The split of the Tribe in Kansas that resulted in the creation of the Citizen Band and the removal to Oklahoma was the most significant from the perspective of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe. Since then, the "milestones" have been harder to determine, since they are closer in time. Certainly the settlement at Sacred Heart and the relationship with the Benedictine Order, the reconciliation of competing factions in the tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1926 and the Thomas-Rogers Act of 1928 creating one Business Committee and a formal government structure were big



### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By John A. Barrett Jr.

events that profoundly affect us today. At the time, however, I am sure the event created little notice in the Tribe, since the tribal government had only one function — the pursuit of settlement claims with the United States.

The activities of the Tribe in the 70s in which we started full time Tribal offices and government contracting were "milestones" in building our self-recognition as a functional entity. It was then that first stages of our knowledge that we actually didn't need the BIA to tell us how to think, talk, and act as the Citizen Potawatomi Tribe began. We were once an independent people with our own language, culture, art, and history — but we lost a war. In losing the war, we lost our identity. We were beginning to get it back.

The actions of 1983 to 1985 in which the Citizen Potawatomi Tribe declared its

sovereignty, changed its Constitution, and created a government of laws rather than individuals was one of our "milestones." From this act, we have been able to give all members the vote, set up independent courts and police powers, and stabilize our government functions. This has enabled us to acquire the means with which we will eventually deliver the services we should be able to provide as a government — health, education, and cultural preservation. These three items are our goals. They have been demanded through Tribal referendums, reinforced through our history, and are the ultimate objectives of all of the "milestones" we have passed. They were the goals of our forefathers; they are still our goals today.

The recent change in our Tribal Administrator position may well be looked upon in the future as a "milestone."

The previous six years under Bob Davis have been times when we have primarily emphasized the growth of our "means" to accomplish our goals — tribal enterprises. It takes money to do the things we need to do, and we started with very little. He did a good job in helping the businesses grow. We have gaming (bingo) as our primary resource. But it is subject to the whims of Congress in allowing us to expand or even continue. We used the gaming money to create the foundations of two solid business objectives — entertainment (bingo, golf, restaurant, and soon bowling), and banking. It is in this last area that we have the greatest potential.

We have the only viable tribally-owned bank in the United States. When we discuss the possibilities with members of the financial community around the country, they are stunned. We can, and now I believe will, do some amazing things in the banking and finance area. Which brings us to the hiring of J.D. Colbert as Tribal Administrator. His qualifications are written in this issue of the HowNiKan. In reading the paper, however, it is difficult to get the feeling of confidence you get when you meet him. He has the tools to take us on to the next "mile-

stone": education, experience, and ambition. I ask for your support of his efforts and prayers for his success.

In writing this letter, I do not intend in any way to diminish the contributions of all of the people who worked for the Potawatomi Tribe in the past. Each leader, employee, or key person in our history, with very few exceptions, has left the Tribe better off than when they came. Certainly Bob Davis has, and he can still contribute as a member of the Business Committee.

This is an exciting time in the history of the Potawatomi and I am grateful for all of you who wish to be a part of it. I look forward to seeing you at Regional Council this year. We are adding some variety this year by going back to an indoor meeting room and audio-visual show. We will share some great food and a new and entertaining meeting agenda. Please come and meet with your fellow Potawatomi, and Regional Representative, the Business Committee, and J.D., Esther, and other Tribal staff.

Megwetch

*John Barrett*

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